William Mann

Literature Review

Reflection 2

When researching a topic it is critical for the researcher to look through material on the subject matter that has already been gathered. Gathering information on the topic and other opinions are critical to drawing conclusions in your own work. Educators need to be able to access prior research and be aware of current instructional strategies to be effective teachers. Theorists and researchers write the primary sources of literature on a field of study. These works are usually published as peer reviewed journals. They conduct the studies, experiments, observations, collect data, and statistics within their work.

This is where the literature review comes into play and why it is so critical. A literature review summarizes the primary body of work by theorists and researchers. The author interprets and critique their work on the topic. The review also identifies any gaps or inconsistences within the writing. They also generalize, synthesize, and integrate new research. Different theorist and researchers may have a different opinion/view of a topic so a reviewer has to look at both arguments and come to a conclusion. They also have to look at new research done on the topic that may support or disprove a prior notion. Writing a literature review is connected to Blooms taxonomy because it applies his principles of thinking which includes remembering, understanding, applying, analyzing, evaluating, and creating.

From these reviews textbooks, articles, and handbooks are written. Multiple people gain knowledge of key research findings from these sources. As an educator Literature reviews are very important because they provide a critical summary of current knowledge on educational strategies. It introduces key principles and practices within the educational field. This will in turn help a researcher identify strength and weakness within their own work.

I think of it as a research cycle. I would like to research why students who enter into middle school math struggle to understand the concepts. In order to do this I will need to look through articles, and textbooks that discuss this topic. To dig further into the topic I will need to look at the literature reviews and academic journals of theorists’ research on bridging the gap in math for students transitioning into middle school.

.